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International regulation in city-planning and environmental protection.

Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

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The module is realized in the frame of the project "Enhanced Skills and COmpetences in European Studies for Landscape ARchitects, environmental specialists and managers" (project number: 611545-EPP-1-2019-1-RU-EPPJMO-MODULE), Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions.



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Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

The 2014-2020 period has put the urban dimension at the very heart of Cohesion Policy. At least 50% of the ERDF resources for this period will be invested in urban areas. This could increase even further, later in the period. Around 10 billion euros from the ERDF will be directly allocated to integrated strategies for sustainable urban development. And about 750 cities will be empowered to implement these integrated strategies for sustainable urban development.



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

Concentration on Europe 2020 priorities

Smart growth • Research&Innovation • ICT • SME

Sustainable growth • Low-carbon • Resource-efficiency • Risk-prevention • Transport

Inclusive growth • Employment • Social inclusion • Education



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

Integrated strategies and actions

Urban neighbourhoods

Cities and towns

Functional urban areas, metropolitan regions

Other functional economic or geographic areas

Rural areas



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The various dimensions of urban life – environmental, economic, social and cultural – are interwoven and success in urban development can only be achieved through an integrated approach. Measures concerning physical urban renewal must be combined with those promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection. It also calls for strong partnerships between local citizens, civil society, industry and various levels of government. Such an approach is especially important at this time, given the seriousness of the challenges European cities currently face, ranging from specific demographic changes to the consequences of economic stagnation in terms of job creation and social progress, and to the impact of climate change. The response to these challenges is critical for achieving the smart, sustainable, inclusive society envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy.



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

Cities magnify some of the key challenges that Europe faces, from environment, social deprivation, quality of life, mobility, to integration of migrants and refugees. The importance of cities for Europe's future is reflected in recent European strategies and agreements such as the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, the Toledo Declaration or the most recent Urban Agenda for the EU, adopted under the 2016 Dutch Presidency, acknowledging the cities as focal points for economic development and as actors with a key responsibility in achieving territorial cohesion and the EU's strategic goals.



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

This in turn resulted in a pledge for boosting the urban dimension in Cohesion Policy as well as the development of national urban policies across all the Member States. Consequently, there is a growing number of instruments and initiatives as part of EU Cohesion Policy (e.g. JESSICA, Community-Led Local Development) and other initiatives (Adaptation Strategies for European Cities, European Urban Knowledge Network, URBACT, etc.) that support sustainable urban development and facilitate cooperation across municipal boundaries to promote development in metropolitan areas (e.g. Integrated Territorial Investment).



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Also about EUR 15 billion from the Cohesion Policy budget is allocated to urban projects in 2014-2020. Echoing these developments, DG Regio recently changed its name to Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. This (arguably slow but increasingly prominent) ascent of the 'urban dimension' of Cohesion Policy also introduces a new approach to spending EU funds – while typically most of the structural funds are allocated to economically lagging regions, with the growing focus on cities the focus also changes from lagging areas to areas where most of EU citizens live. This, together with the fact, that projects supported by EU funds in the cities could indeed benefit from greater visibility to a larger population and the media, means that the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy presents a number of opportunities for making this policy's impacts more discernible and tangible in the eyes of the general public, thus possibly also making the policy 'closer to the citizens.'



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

URBACT

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development, which integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to work together to develop new, pragmatic and sustainable solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. So far 7 000 people from 500 cities, in 29 countries, have participated in the URBACT programme.



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During the 2014-2020 programming period, European cities will benefit even more from the EU's Regional Policy:

Urban areas are directly targeted by several of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment priorities. This means greater opportunity for sustainable urban mobility, regeneration of deprived communities and improved research and innovation capacity.

In each EU Member State, a minimum 5 % of the ERDF is earmarked for integrated sustainable urban development; its on-the-ground deployment will be decided and directed by urban authorities.

EUR 371 million is set aside for innovative actions in the field of Sustainable Urban Development over a seven-year period.



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

An urban development network (UDN) is responsible for reviewing on-the-ground deployment of European funds and boosting knowledge-sharing between cities involved in integrated sustainable urban development and in Urban Innovative Actions.

Cities are encouraged to use Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), which paves the way for local stakeholders, businesses, the public sector and civil society to get more involved in urban neighbourhood regeneration.

Integrated territorial investments may be used to implement area-based strategies that rely on investments across different fields.

The URBACT III programme - which acts as a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development – has been financially strengthened and expanded, enabling European cities to work together to develop better solutions to urban challenges.

The TAIEX REGIO PEER 2 PEER tool is designed to share expertise between bodies that manage funding under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund.



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Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

The new urban dimension

Examples of urban investment priorities:

- Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector;
- Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures;
- Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalize cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures;
- Providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

The new urban dimension

At least 5 % of ERDF should be invested in integrated urban development on national level (Article 7 ERDF Regulation)

- On the basis of an integrated urban development strategy addressing economic, environmental, climate, demographic, social challenges
- As Integrated Territorial Investment, a multi-thematic priority axis, a separate Operational programme
- Taking into account urban rural linkages
- Use of CLLD approaches



Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy of EU

Integrated Territorial Investments

- Implementation of an Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)
- Instrument for implementing a territorial strategy in an integrated way (not only for urban development)
- Draw funding from different priority axis (at least 2) or OPs (f. ex. ESF)
- Addressing thematic objectives of the OP
- ITI can be used for different types of regions, there need to be a integrated strategy
- ITIs can be seleted by competition



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